



2017 IOWA APSE CONFERENCE

THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGING FAMILIES.

OBJECTIVES

LEARN

- Quick and easy methods to connect with parents and families in minutes.
- Discovering family genius.
- Discover how to empower families to become effective financial managers.
- What are the 10 things never to say to a parent.
- Why parents might be the best job developers.

A group of four young people (two men and two women) are sitting together in a circle, engaged in conversation. They are in a bright, indoor setting with large windows in the background. Overlaid on the image are four colorful rectangular boxes containing text. The top box is yellow and contains the word 'COMMUNICATION'. Below it, there are three boxes: a yellow one on the left with 'PEOPLE', a green one in the middle with 'COMMUNITY', and a cyan one on the right with 'SOCIAL MEDIA'. The bottom of the image is a solid orange bar.

COMMUNICATION

PEOPLE

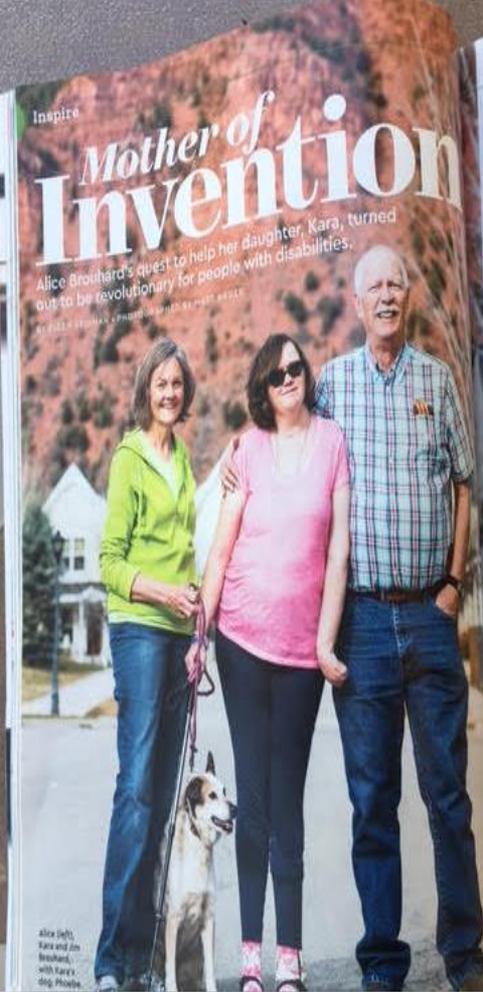
COMMUNITY

SOCIAL MEDIA

$$E = mc^2$$



Engagement = My Community ²



Nearly every one of the yellow ones CO, where her they chat over frequently from a special breakfast." it prompts. "Kara relies on these recorded in her own use. Reminder-to get through traumatic brain injury, navigate daily tasks on along with other technology accomplish far more than

A NEW NORMAL
On a cold day in 1990, Alice and her husband, Jim, took Kara, exuberant 5-year-old, skiing at local resort. Kara fell in the snow and before she could regain footing, an out-of-control ski crashed into her, shattering skull with the tip of one of her legs.
A medical helicopter arrived to transport Kara to the hospital. In the following days and weeks she had multiple brain surgeries. She remained in a coma for months. One day, as Jim sat by her bedside, she opened her eyes. "Hi, Dad," she said, a parents' relief. Yet big challenges ahead. Kara's left side paralyzed, and she had enough vision loss to be legally blind. Doctors told Broshards that Kara might walk again or regain full hearing.
Back at home, Kara required a feeding tube. Alice and Jim worked as nurses, but ill-prepared for the emotional psychological task of teaching their own daughter to walk again. "Every day I think tomorrow will be better."
With tutoring from kindergarten teacher

THE ASPEN TIMES WEEKEND IN ASPEN

Home Sports & Outdoors Entertainment Restaurants Classifieds Magazines

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5Point Film Fest: Local filmmakers share Max Grange's inspirational story



Meet the Families



Meet the Families

Mikelle's Story

Adopted from Korea at 3 months

First one in her elementary, middle and high schools to be fully included in regular ed.

Graduated "OUTSTANDING SENIOR" from the same high school her GM, Brother and now nephew graduated from.

Been working since 16 years old.

PASS Plan

Owens her own home and accessible van.

Author and Presenter

Jewelry Designer



**LABELS ARE
FOR JARS
NOT PEOPLE,
YET...**



Difficult

Overprotective

Smart

Creative

WHO I AM

A screenshot of a Windows Snipping Tool window. The title bar reads "Snipping Tool" and includes standard minimize, maximize, and close buttons. The window content is currently blank.

Snipping Tool



01

Family Labels



02

Rehab and Career Labels



02

Life Labels



My Story

Discovering Family Genius



Me



The ENUF Model

Takes 5
Minutes

Empathy
Non-Judgement
Understanding
Feelings



What are the family Strengths?



By KOMUnews -



Bridging the Gap: Connect with Families

ENUF Model.

Empathy

Non-judgment

Understanding

Feelings

Educate and Involve.

Stakeholder groups and problem solving.

Roadmaps for Medicaid waiver services and benefits.

Political activism.



TOP 10

Things Never to Say to a Parent.

10. Say no, often.
9. Over promise and under deliver.
8. Tell us how the system is complicated.
7. Think parents don't have dreams of their own.
6. Only focus on short-term planning.
5. Fail to assist in financial planning.
4. Tell us technology is not important for our kids.
3. Fail to understand we grow weary of the *endless* stream of people in our lives.
2. Fail to understand we are the one constant in our child's life.
1. Don't call me **MOM**.

Hello

**I am
your job developer.**

Love, Mom

**Getting
Parents
Involved**

Parents are great negotiators.

We can spot an opportunity like no one else and can cast a bright spotlight on a dark problem, especially when it comes to denying our family members their fair share of opportunity.

We take charge, often out of necessity.

Even if we don't see ourselves as leaders, we need to step into the unknown world of insurance, medical jargon and procedures, and often challenging educational systems. With perseverance, we ask questions, explore options, find solutions and in the process build teams of professionals with community support.

Parents understand their family member's preferences and hobbies.

Given a little knowledge and support from other employment practitioners, we can assist in creating a job, a hobby, or small business for our loved one.

Help Families Get Started

Start a “Launch Fund”. A launch fund is similar to a college fund. Start small. A few dollars a week can add up quickly and provide the funds for a micro business loan. Have literature available on setting up an Able Account in your state.

Look for summer jobs and intern opportunities.

These don't have to be full-time positions to start. Shoot for at least ten hours a week.

Next Steps in Engaging Families

Support getting paperwork in order.

High tech or low tech, it doesn't matter. Gather relevant paperwork such as Social Security cards and correspondence, Individual Educational Plans, Individual Transition Plans, medical records, necessary financial information (like child support payments) together in an accessible and portable filing system.

Help them contact Vocational Rehabilitation before the student turns eighteen to determine eligibility. The earlier the better. Invite a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor to the student's transition planning sessions.

Continue to engage in financial planning discussions. Start learning about Social Security benefits and work incentive programs. The complicated Social Security system is far from logical. Ask for guidance when sending in your application. Give yourself time to learn the ropes and find an experienced parent or provider to help you. Follow this link for more information:
http://www.ssa.gov/schoolofficials/faqs_students.htm.

With a little luck, a bit of creativity and a dose of persistence—opportunity will find you and as parents you can be the best job developers, just not the only ones.

Next Steps in Engaging Families

Assist families in gathering letters of recommendation from teachers, clergy, volunteer experiences and recreational camp counselors. Place them in a portfolio and scan them onto a personal and password protected website. Personal websites for storing records, creating portfolios and communicating between providers, individuals, and families are an emerging trend.

Ask parents to provide examples and pictures of their family member participating in their community. For example, if a family member enjoys technology, show them using it. If it is athletics they love, take pictures of their sporting activities. If they love church and are part of a Bible study, show them in worship with other folks in the congregation.

Preparation is essential as you travel the road to transition. **Look for trailblazers.** Experienced parents and professionals can guide families as they negotiate the adult service delivery system.

Help families connect with other active and action-oriented parents.

Finally, approaching employment for people with disabilities is part of a **parent's continuing education program**, just like your professional development. Make sure the families you support have access to the best practices and current trends.

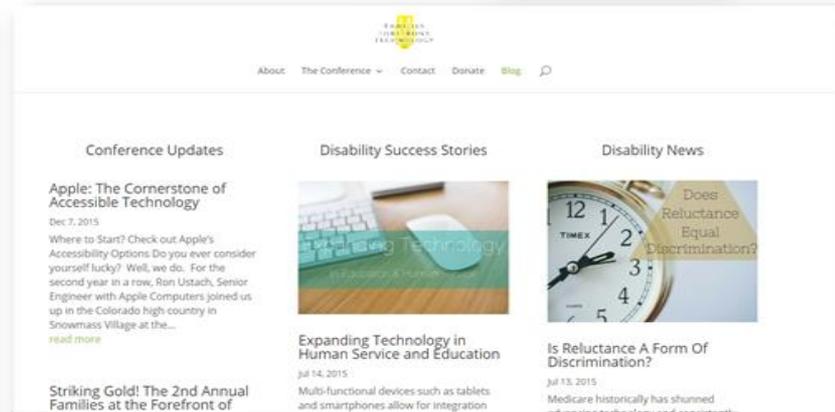
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Check out our
websites.



www.TheShiningBeautifulSeries.com



www.FamiliesForefront.org